

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete the paragraph at page 1, lines 6-8.

Before the paragraph at page 1, line 9, please add the following new paragraph:

This application is a Continuation of Application Serial No. 09/902,636, filed July 12, 2001, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/226,901, filed August 23, 2000, and incorporates these applications herein, in their entirety, by reference.

Please delete the paragraph at page 6, lines 25-28 and page 7, lines 1-10.

Before the paragraph at page 7, line 11, please add the following new paragraph:

Figure 5 is a side perspective view of an alternative embodiment of the present invention. In Figure 5 a means 50 for affirmatively verifying the deployment of a medical appliance from a plurality of medical appliances can be seen. Means 50 may be attached to an endoscope as illustrated in Figure 6. Means 50 may contain a plunger 52, a body 56, a string 53, and a variable length string passageway 51 and may be used to deploy ligation bands or other medical appliances located at the distal end of an endoscope. Means 50 accomplishes this task by shortening or otherwise pulling on a string contained within the passageway 51 that is coupled to a plurality of deployable medical appliances at the distal end of the endoscope. This string is pulled or shortened by a specific predetermined distance by depressing one of the plungers 52 of the means 50. As

the plunger 52 is depressed, the string 53 resident in the passageway 51 and coupled to anchoring point 57 will have its effective length shortened by the distance that it must now travel around the depressed plunger 52. Thus, by depressing the plunger 52, the string will be shortened and a ligation band or other device coupled to the string may be deployed by the medical device.

Please delete the paragraph at page 7, lines 11-25.

Before the paragraph at page 7, line 26, please add the following new paragraph:

A specific method of using the means 50 from Figure 5 may include coupling the body 56 to an endoscope and then threading a string 53 through the string passageway 51 and anchoring point 57. The distal end of the string 53 may then be threaded around each deployable medical appliance in sequential order. Then, as mentioned above, in order to deploy the medical appliance, the plunger 52 may be depressed, in order to draw the string 53 into the valley 58 associated with the plunger 53 thus altering the string's pathway and shortening its effective length. Consequently, when a plunger 52 is depressed, a medical appliance coupled to the string's distal end may be deployed from the distal end of the medical device. If a second medical appliance is to be deployed, a second plunger may be depressed while the first plunger is also depressed. Here, the effective length of the string will be twice shortened and the second medical appliance may be deployed. Likewise a third appliance may also be deployed by depressing the third plunger 52 while the first two are also depressed. The plungers in this embodiment may be depressed in any order to deploy the first, second, and the third medical appliances since the string is not bound underneath the depressed plungers but is, rather, able to slide back and forth underneath the depressed plunger.

Please delete the paragraph at page 8, lines 6-15.

Before the paragraph at page 8, line 16, please add the following new paragraph:

An alternative embodiment of a means 70 for affirmatively verifying the deployment of a specific medical appliance from a plurality of appliances is illustrated in Figure 7. Means 70 may be placed at the distal end of an endoscope and may be used to pull a string a predetermined distance in order to deploy a ligation band in communication with the string from a ligation tip at the distal end of the endoscope. Means 70 may include a shaft 76, an opening 72, and a slidable handle 71 coupled to the shaft 76 and adapted to be slid over the shaft 76. The handle 71 may also contain several slots 78 that may be sized to secure a looped end 75 of a string 701 that may be attached to a plurality of ligation bands at the distal end of the endoscope or other device. Consequently, as the handle 71 is incrementally advanced down the shaft 76 the string 701 may be pulled by that same incremental distance as the handle 71 is slid.

Please delete the paragraph at page 9, lines 6-8.

After the paragraph that ends at page 9, line 5, please add the following new paragraph:

System, method, and apparatus for deploying medical devices from a medical appliance are provided. While several embodiments of the present invention have been described above, other embodiments within the spirit and scope of the present invention are also possible.

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure (page 15) as follows:

The present invention regards system, method, and apparatus for selectively and accurately deploying one or more sequentially positioned medical appliances from a portable medical device. ~~An apparatus, in accord with one embodiment of the present invention, includes a ligation tip having an internal passage and an outside surface wherein the outside surface has a plurality of sequentially ordered deployable medical appliances in contact with it. The apparatus also includes a body having a channel in communication with the internal passage of the ligation tip, a string passing through the internal passage and the channel, and a means, coupled to the string, for affirmatively verifying that a specific medical appliance, from the plurality of sequentially ordered medical appliances, has been deployed from the ligation tip~~ a mechanism for moving the string a predetermined first distance to deploy a first of the medical appliances and for moving the string a predetermined second distance to deploy a second of the medical appliances. The medical appliances may be, but are not limited to, ligating bands.